CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-09

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 90 OF THE ST. PETE BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC CONVEYANCE; PROVIDING FOR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC CONVEYANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith, TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to maintain and enhance the safety of the public and preserve the quality of the public environment in the City through proper regulation of public conveyances; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has found this ordinance to be consistent with the City’s adopted comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has found this ordinance to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the city; and

WHEREAS, notice of this ordinance has been provided in accordance with applicable law;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 90 of the St. Pete Beach Municipal Code is amended in accordance with Attachment “A” to this ordinance.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of any conflict with this Ordinance.

Section 3. If any portion or part of this Ordinance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the valid remainder hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective August 16, 2010.

Michael Finnerty, MAYOR
FIRST READING: 6-8-2010
PUBLISHED: 6-12-2010
SECOND READING: 6-22-2010
PUBLIC HEARING: 6-22-2010

I, Theresa B. McMaster, City Clerk of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was duly adopted in accordance with the provisions of applicable law this 22nd day of June, 2010.

Theresa B. McMaster, City Clerk
Sec. 90-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Driver means any person who physically operates or drives any public conveyance over, upon or along the streets, avenues or highways of the city. A driver may or may not be an operator.

Operator means any person owning, leasing or controlling any public conveyance. An operator may or may not be a driver.

Public conveyance means any motor or other vehicle, by whatever name called, including but not limited to a taxicab or vehicle for hire, used or operated for the purpose of general transportation of passengers on occasional trips, whether or not on a regular schedule or between fixed termini or over regular routes, and for any fee, hire or compensation over, or in connection with a business operation, whether or not such transportation is the principle source of business revenue, and whether or not fares are charged to the passengers, and shall include transportation for tips or for no compensation from the passengers upon or along the city streets, avenues or highways from any point within the city, excepting those vehicles upon or along the city streets, avenues or highways from any point within the city, excepting those vehicles as follows:
(1) Motor vehicles used exclusively in transporting children to and from schools.
(2) Hearse and ambulances when operated by licensed embalmers, morticians, or ambulance service companies or their agents or employees in this state.
(3) Motor vehicles operated by a governmental agency.
(4) Public conveyances whose primary business (over 50 percent of trips within each calendar year) is interstate transportation. The owner or operator of such vehicle, upon 30 days' request from the licensing official, shall produce for inspection by the city adequate records to show that within the preceding calendar year such vehicle qualified as an exempt vehicle under this subsection. The existence and production of such records shall be a requirement of the exemption.
(5) Regularly established bus lines.

Taxicab means every motor vehicle of nine-passenger capacity or less, including the driver, engaged in the general transportation of persons for specified compensation on occasional trips, not on a regular schedule or between fixed termini or over regular routes.

Vehicle for hire means any vehicle other than a taxicab engaged in transportation of persons or property for specified compensation over the public highways that holds his service out to the public and provides transportation over regular or irregular routes.
(Code 1960, § 14-1; P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 1; Code 1983, § 23-1; Ord. No. 85-7, § 1, 3-5-85)

**Cross references:** Definitions generally, § 1-2.

**Sec. 90-2. Compliance.**

It shall be unlawful for any operator to operate or permit to be operated upon the public streets of the city any public conveyance until such operator shall first have complied with this chapter.

(Code 1960, § 14-2; P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 7; Code 1983, § 23-2)

**Sec. 90-3. Rates generally.**

It shall be unlawful for the operator or driver of any vehicle subject to this chapter to charge more or less than the fares shown and disclosed by the tariff or schedule of rates posted in such motor vehicle and by the schedule or tariff of rates on file with the city or to alter or amend the rate schedule posted in such public conveyance until such operator or driver shall first have filed with the city his amended or changed schedule of rates.


Secs. 90-4—90-30. Reserved.

**ARTICLE II. BUSINESS**

**DIVISION 1. GENERALLY**

**Sec. 90-31. Rate schedule posted in vehicle.**

Every operator shall have posted inside of his public conveyance in a conspicuous place the detailed rate or tariff charged or to be charged for transportation within the city, if such charges are applicable. This schedule of rates or tariff shall be printed in a size easily readable by persons sitting in the rear seat of the public conveyance and shall conform to and be an exact duplicate of the schedule of tariff or rates filed as provided in subsection 90-67(8).

(Code 1960, § 14-8; P.G. Ord. No. 59, §§ 9, 12; Code 1983, § 23-4; Ord. No. 85-7, § 2, 3-5-85)

**Sec. 90-32. Minimum standards.**

In addition to the standards and requirements otherwise applicable through this chapter, all taxicabs, and vehicles for hire, and all other public conveyances and owners, operators and drivers thereof dispatched from a location within the city and all public conveyances desiring to accept passengers for fee, hire or compensation from a location within the city shall comply with the following standards:

1. A rearview mirror and sideview mirror on the driver's side shall be installed.
(2) A speedometer shall be properly installed, in good working order and exposed to view.
(3) The interior shall be clean, sanitary, free from torn upholstery or floor covering and from damaged or broken seats.
(4) Door hinges and latches shall be in good mechanical working order and all doors shall operate easily and close securely.
(5) The vehicle shall be structurally sound and shall operate with a minimum of noise and vibration.
(6) The body, fenders, doors, trim and grill shall be reasonably free from cracks, breaks, and dents that would impair the safety or appearance of the taxicab.
(7) Vision shall be unobstructed on all four sides.
(8) The All required licenses shall be prominently displayed.
(9) Taxicabs must have a two-way radio installed and operating properly with access to or affiliated with a central dispatch facility.
(10) Taximeters, approved by the state department of agriculture, bureau of weights and measures, shall be installed and illuminated so as to be easily seen by a passenger sitting in any part of a taxicab.
(11) Taxicabs Public Conveyances must have one an identification device(s) indicating that the vehicle is a taxicab—public conveyance.
(12) Tires, front end, exhaust system, brakes, lights, and windshield wipers shall be in functional condition and working order. All public conveyances shall be maintained in a safe condition and in a proper state of repair, including proper operation of all mechanical and electrical systems, signaling devices and other safety equipment. The city reserves the right to perform or require inspection of any licensed vehicles as may be reasonably necessary.
(13) All operators shall comply at all times with the liability insurance requirements set forth in section 90-69.
   a. All operators with centralized dispatch shall maintain a commercial office for such service. Dispatch service as opposed to a Dispatch of public conveyances shall not be allowed as a home occupation.
   b. Comply at all times with the liability insurance requirements set forth in section 90-69.
   c. Prominently display the driver's identification badge as if required by subsection 90-438(f), with picture, within the vehicle in plain view of any passenger.
   d. Prominently display an identification emblem, if required, to be issued or approved by the licensing official or his authorized representative on the rear of the vehicle.
(CODE 1983, § 23-7; Ord. No. 85-7, § 4, 3-5-85)

Sec. 90-33. Issuance of emblem Identification Sticker.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person dispatched from a location within the city or any person accepting fares from a location within the city to drive any public conveyance upon the city streets, avenues, or highways without a valid approved emblem identification sticker securely affixed to the rear of the vehicle, to be issued or approved by the licensing official or his authorized representative upon payment of the occupational license tax, if applicable, and after all other requirements of this chapter.
are met. For the purposes of this Section, any similar form of identification as a licensed public conveyance issued by the City of St. Petersburg or the Hillsborough County Public Transportation Commission shall be deemed evidence of licensing when properly displayed.

(b) The emblem issued to the operator shall remain the property of the city and shall be returned to the city at the expiration or cancellation of the business permit.

(Code 1983, § 23-8; Ord. No. 85-7, § 4, 3-5-85)

Sec. 90-34. Required lettering on taxicabs Public Conveyances.

Every operator of a taxicab public conveyance shall have printed on each side of such cab vehicle so that such may at all times remain legible and be visible from a distance of not less than 50 feet, the name and address of the operator of such vehicle and the number assigned to the vehicle by the operator, if applicable, in letters not less than three inches high or as part of a logo receiving the approval of the chief of police approved by the licensing official. Such letters shall be in a color contrasting to that of the motor vehicle as required by section 26-2. In addition to the name and address of the operator of such vehicle, the term "taxi," "taxicab," or such other terminology which positively identifies the vehicle as a taxicab public conveyance in letters not less than three inches in height, unless otherwise approved by the chief of police, shall also be so displayed on all taxicabs public conveyances operating in the city.


Sec. 90-35. Taxicab meters.

(a) It shall be unlawful to operate any taxicab dispatched from within the city or to pick up passengers for any fee or compensation at a location within the city, unless the taxicab is equipped with a taximeter of such a type and design as will properly and accurately compute and display on its face the charge for the distance traveled and the waiting time. The operation of any taxicab with a taximeter which is defective or which does not properly and accurately compute and display on its face the charge for distance traveled or the charge for waiting time shall constitute a violation of this article. The taximeter shall be inspected at intervals as required by the state bureau of weights and measures and at such other times as may be deemed necessary by the licensing official chief of police. All taximeters shall be placed in such a position in the taxicab that the face thereof and the fare numerals may be easily seen and read by a passenger sitting in any part of the taxicab. No taximeter shall be used between sunset and sunrise unless the face shall be illuminated.

(b) When a passenger engages and enters a taxicab, the flag, signal or other device affixed to the taximeter shall be so moved to indicate that the taxicab is employed.

(Code 1983, § 23-6; Ord. No. 85-7, § 4, 3-5-85)

Secs. 90-36--90-65. Reserved.
DIVISION 2. PERMIT

Sec. 90-66. Required; fees.

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any public conveyance upon the streets, avenues, or highways of the city without first obtaining a business permit for the operation of such public conveyance. Any person holding a valid business permit from a county or municipality other than this city and dispatched from a location outside the city limits may operate within the city, but this shall not relieve the owner or operator of the conveyance from payment of a license registration fee to this city pursuant to section 26-1. Any operator who maintains a call or taxi stand within the city shall be required to obtain a full city business permit for each such location and pay the fee as established by resolution of the city commission and included in appendix A to this Code.

(Code 1983, § 23-24; Ord. No. 85-7, § 7, 3-5-85)

State law references: Authority to levy regulatory fees, F.S. § 166.221.

Sec. 90-67. Application.

(a) Any person desiring to operate a public conveyance in the city shall make application for a permit to the licensing official upon application blanks to be furnished by the city, which application shall include the following:

(1) The name, address, telephone number and other relevant contact information, including emergency contact information, for the person(s) or company proposing to operate the public conveyance, including a number for inquiries regarding lost passenger items. The owner of such vehicle and, if not owned by the applicant, from whom the vehicle is leased or rented.

(2) A list and description of all vehicles to be utilized in association with the proposed public conveyance, including the state license number and serial number of the vehicle. The name, address and telephone number of the person dispatching the vehicle.

(3) An attached notarized statement from the applicant's mechanic or from a licensed automotive garage or a mechanic accepted by the City, certifying that all vehicles meet the minimum standards contained within this chapter.

(3) The name and make of such vehicle and the year of manufacture, together with the serial number of such vehicle and the seating capacity.

(4) The state license number of such motor vehicle.

(5) If the owner of such vehicle is a corporation, where such corporation was chartered, the amount of capital of such corporation and the officers thereof.

(6) If the owner of such vehicle is a partnership, the name and residence of each partner.

(7) Any other information reasonably required by the licensing official.

(8) A detailed tariff schedule to be charged by such vehicle.

(9) Whether such vehicle(s) is to be operated as a taxi, or vehicle for hire or other public conveyance.

(b) The applicant shall agree that he will comply with all of the laws of the city and that, for a violation of this chapter or of any of the ordinances of the city, the licensing official shall be at liberty to cancel and withdraw such permit and terminate the right of such
person to use the streets, avenues or alleys of the city for such transportation business. Any changes to required information submitted for permitting must be provided to the Licensing Official within seven (7) days of the effective date of change. The permit shall be displayed in the vehicle at all times.

(c) For the purposes of this Section, any similar form of identification as a licensed public conveyance operator issued by the City of St. Petersburg or the Hillsborough County Public Transportation Commission shall be deemed evidence of licensing when properly displayed and may substitute for the permit required herein.

(Code 1960, § 14-3; P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 2; Code 1983, § 23-21; Ord. No. 85-7, § 5, 3-5-85)

Sec. 90-68. Fees.

Permit fees for automobiles and buses for hire shall be established by resolution of the city commission and are listed in appendix A to this Code. Fees shall be charged for the following:
(1) Each taxicab public conveyance operating within the city.
(2) Each driver of a taxicab or bus public conveyance.

(Code 1983, § 11-74(11); Ord. No. 89-15, § 1, 8-1-89)

Sec. 90-69. Bond or insurance required.

(a) Before a business permit shall be issued by the city to any person for the use of the streets, avenues or highways of the city for the purpose of the operation of a public conveyance, the operator of such public conveyance shall file with the city, for each motor vehicle operated, a corporate surety bond or policy certificate of insurance in a solvent company authorized to do business in the state which clearly states or identifies that such insurance is provided with the express intent of insuring the operations of public conveyances as defined by this ordinance. Such bond or insurance shall be in the form approved by the city attorney and shall be in an amount of not less than $25,000.00 $125,000.00 for the recovery for personal injuries by one person and not less than $50,000.00 $250,000.00 for all persons receiving personal injuries because of one act of negligence and, in addition, the bond shall provide for the payment of not less than $25,000.00 $50,000.00 for injury to property of any person. Such bond or policy certificate of insurance shall secure the person against loss sustained because of the death of or injury to persons, and the loss or damage to property resulting from the negligence of such person, his agents, servants or employees. Such bond or policy certificate of insurance may provide for the cancellation thereof by not less than ten days' notice to the licensing official of such intention.

(b) Upon the cancellation or lapse of any such bond or policy certificate of insurance, the business permit issued to such person shall be immediately revoked unless such person, before the expiration day of the policy of insurance or bond, shall have obtained another bond or policy of insurance containing all the requirements of the original bond or policy of insurance.

(Code 1960, §§ 14-4(a), 14-5; P.G. Ord. No. 59, §§ 3, 4; Code 1983, § 23-22; Ord. No. 85-7, § 6, 3-5-85)
State law references: Insurance requirements, F.S. §§ 324.031, 324.032.

Sec. 90-70. Revocation.

The city commission shall have full power and authority to revoke the business permit for the operation of any public conveyance if it shall be shown that the operator of such public conveyance has been guilty of or permitted the violation of any section of this Code or any ordinance of the city.
Secs. 90-71--90-100. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. DRIVERS

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 90-101. Compliance.

It shall be unlawful for any driver of a public conveyance to fail to perform any act required by this chapter to be performed or to violate any of the terms, provisions or directions of this chapter.
(Code 1960, § 14-17(a), (b); P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 22; Code 1983, § 23-36)

Sec. 90-102. Records of trips. Reserved.

It shall be unlawful for any driver of a public conveyance to fail to keep a written record of all trips. Such record shall give information as to the time of the trip, the starting and ending point of the trip, together with the number of persons carried. Such report shall be available for inspection by the police department at all times and shall be kept available for a period of not less than six months.
(Code 1960, § 14-17(c); P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 22; Code 1983, § 23-37)

Sec. 90-103. Accident reports.

It shall be unlawful for any driver of a public conveyance to fail to report promptly all accidents to the police department.
(Code 1960, § 14-17(d); P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 22; Code 1983, § 23-38)

Sec. 90-104. Reports of change of residence.

It shall be unlawful for any driver of a public conveyance to fail to report to the licensing official any change of his residence within 24 hours five days.
(Code 1960, § 14-17(e); P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 22; Code 1983, § 23-39; Ord. No. 85-7, § 8, 3-5-85)

Sec. 90-105. Fare receipts.
It shall be unlawful for any driver of a public conveyance to fail to give a receipt for a fare when requested by a passenger. (Code 1960, § 14-17(g); P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 22; Code 1983, § 23-40)

Sec. 90-106. Alcoholic beverages; controlled substances.

It shall be unlawful for any driver of a public conveyance or vehicle for hire to have in his possession in any public conveyance an alcoholic beverage(s) or at any time unlawfully possess in any public conveyance he is driving any controlled substance made unlawful by the laws of the state. It shall be unlawful for any driver to deliver or to permit his conveyance to be used as a delivery vehicle or to permit any person to use the conveyance he is driving for the purpose of delivering any alcoholic beverages or for delivering any controlled substance made unlawful by the laws of the state. It shall be unlawful for any driver to knowingly permit a person to have an opened container of alcoholic beverages in the public conveyance. (Code 1960, § 14-18; P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 23; Code 1983, § 23-41; Ord. No. 85-7, § 9, 3-5-85)

DIVISION 2. PERMIT

Sec. 90-136. Required; driving with suspended permit prohibited.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any public conveyance upon the city streets, avenues or highways without a business permit to drive a public conveyance. Any person holding a valid permit or license meeting the approval of the licensing official Chief of Police from a county or municipality other than this city and dispatched from a location other than within this city may operate within this city, but this shall only apply to those persons driving public conveyances which are registered with the city pursuant to section 26-1 or those public conveyances which have obtained a full city business permit as required by this chapter.
(b) It shall be unlawful for any driver to operate any public conveyance when his driver's permit or driver's license is suspended. (Code 1960, §§ 14-11, 14-17(f); P.G. Ord. No. 59, §§ 15, 22; Code 1983, § 23-51; Ord. No. 85-7, § 10, 3-5-85)

Sec. 90-137. Application.

(a) Information. A person desiring the permit required by this division shall file an application with the city containing the following information:
(1) Name.
(2) Address, previous for the past five years and present.
(3) Telephone number.
(4) Social security number.
(5) Date of birth.
(6) Employer.
(7) Driver's license number, and date of issuance and expiration.
(8) A copy of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement Criminal History Report for the named applicant issued within 15 days prior to the date of application.
(9) Traffic violations in the past ten years, including the type, disposition, and location.
(10) Whether charged or convicted of offenses against moral turpitude.
(11) Whether charged or convicted of a felony.
(12) A minimum of three personal references from responsible state residents that have known the applicant for more than one year, that state they have personal knowledge the applicant is of good character.
(b) Photographs. Each applicant shall file with his application form three photographs of himself of a size designated by the city to be acceptable in a 2 inch by 2 inch format. The photographs shall be a good likeness of the applicant. The photographs shall have been taken within 30 days preceding the date of the application.
c) Fingerprint. The applicant shall have his fingerprints taken by the police department and affixed to the appropriate identification badge.
(Code 1960, § 14-13(A), (B)(4) (5); P.G. Ord. No. 59, § 16; P.G. Ord. No. 247, § 1; Code 1983, § 23-52; Ord. No. 85-7, § 11, 3-5-85)

Sec. 90-138. Investigation of applicant; conditions for issuance; fee; badge.

(a) All applicants submitting an application pursuant to this division may shall be investigated by the licensing official.
(b) The application may be rejected if:
(1) The applicant has been convicted of any crime
(2) The applicant has made any false or misleading statements in his application.
(3) The applicant is physically or mentally incapable of operating a public conveyance safely and prudently.
(4) The applicant displays or indicates any other cause or reason the for which the applicant is found could be judged by the licensing official to be unfit.
(c) For the purpose of the investigation, the licensing official may require the applicant to submit to an examination given either by the city or some person designated by the licensing official. The applicant's physical condition may be examined. The applicant's traffic regulation knowledge may be examined. The applicant's skill and ability to drive or handle a vehicle may be examined. Any other examination which may be deemed necessary to judge the capabilities of the applicant may be administered.
(d) The following conditions must be met by the person applying for a public conveyance operator's permit before the permit will be issued:
(1) Demonstration of the ability to speak, read and write the English language.
(2) All operators must be at least 18 years of age.
(3) All applicants must be able to safely operate a vehicle for hire and cannot be addicted to the use of alcoholic drinks or drugs.
(4) The applicant has been issued a valid state driver's license with the proper driver's classification required by the state department of highway safety and motor vehicles.

(e) Upon satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements contained in this section, the licensing official shall issue to the applicant a business permit to drive a public conveyance. Such permit shall be issued upon the payment by the applicant to the city of a fee in amount established by resolution of the city commission and listed in appendix A to this Code. The permit shall be displayed at all times within the vehicle.

(f) Upon the issuance of a permit required by this division, the driver shall obtain from the licensing official an identification badge containing a recent photograph of the driver on the face. All identification badges shall be placed in such a position in the taxicab or vehicle for hire that the face thereof may be easily seen and read by a passenger sitting in any part of the taxicab or vehicle for hire. For the purposes of this Section, any similar form of identification as a licensed public conveyance driver issued by the City of St. Petersburg or the Hillsborough County Public Transportation Commission shall be deemed evidence of licensing when properly displayed and may substitute for the permit required herein.

(Code 1960, §§ 14-13(A)(1), (2)(b), (B), (C), 14-14; Code 1983, § 23-53; Ord. No. 85-7, § 12, 3-5-85; Ord. No. 92-17, § 1, 8-4-92)

Sec. 90-139. Expiration date; renewal.

A permit issued pursuant to this division shall expire on September 30 following its issuance, regardless of the date of the issuance. Permits are renewable from year to year with the approval of the licensing official, provided that application is made by the permit holder within a period of 60 days prior to the date of the expiration of the permit.


Sec. 90-140. Revocation.

(a) Any permit to drive a public conveyance may be revoked by the city commission, following a quasi-judicial hearing, upon satisfactory proof that the driver has been guilty of any violation of any section of this Code regulating traffic or has been guilty of conduct that in the judgment of the city commission disqualifies such driver as a driver of a public conveyance.

(b) Upon conviction of a driver of a public conveyance for the violation of this chapter or any traffic offense, the judge trying the case may, in addition to the other penalties invoked by him, revoke or suspend the permit of such driver or shall issue an order prohibiting such driver to drive within the city. Such revocation or suspension shall be reported by the judge to the city commission.

(c) Whenever a permit shall be revoked or a prohibition order entered or where such permit shall be suspended, the city commission shall notify the chief of police, and it shall thereafter be unlawful for the person affected to operate a taxi or vehicle for hire in the city.

(Code 1960, §§ 14-16, 14-17(f); P.G. Ord. No. 59, §§ 21, 22; Code 1983, § 23-55)